GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:552
ANSWERED ON:28.02.2008
MAINTENANCE AND WELFARE OF PARENTS AND SENIOR CITIZENS
Singh Shri Prabhunath

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the processes started by the Government for proper and adequate maintenance & welfare of parents and senior citizens as per law on the subject; and

(b) the details of the welfare activities formulated by the Government in this regard particularly for senior citizens?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SMT. SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN)

(a) & (b) Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment is implementing a plan Scheme namely ` An Integrated Programme for Older Persons` under which financial assistance upto 90% of the project cost is provided to NGOs for establishing and maintaining Old Age Homes, Day Care Centres, Mobile Medicare Units and to provide non-institutional services to older persons. In addition, the government is also offering various other facilities/benefits like old age pension, higher threshold limit of exemption under Income Tax, higher rates of interest on saving schemes of senior citizens; exclusive Health Insurance Schemes through Public Sector Insurance Companies for senior citizens; travel concessions, etc. Further, the Government has recently enacted the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007 for providing need-based maintenance and better healthcare facilities to the senior citizens, setting up of old age homes in every district of the country and for institutionalization of the mechanism for protection of life and property of the senior citizens.